

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 6, 2006

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005–06 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 3024

Introduced by Assembly Member Wolk

February 24, 2006

~~An act relating to open space and agricultural land. An act to add and repeal Section 12242.5 of the Elections Code, relating to vote centers.~~

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 3024, as amended, Wolk. ~~Open space and agricultural land.~~
Vote centers: Solano County.

Existing law authorizes the election official to designate polling places in each precinct and to use satellite locations for any voter using an absentee ballot, prior to the close of the polls on election day, to vote the ballot at the satellite location in addition to the office of the elections official.

This bill would, until January 1, 2008, authorize a pilot program to establish vote centers in lieu of polling places in each precinct in Solano County and would require that each vote center meet specified conditions.

The bill would require the County of Solano to make a specified report to the Legislature no later than January 1, 2008.

~~Existing law provides various incentives to preserve open space and agricultural land.~~

~~This bill would declare the Legislature's intent to enact legislation that would provide new fiscal and tax incentives with regard to counties that preserve open space and agricultural land, as provided.~~

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 12242.5 is added to the Elections Code,
2 to read:

3 12242.5. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the
4 Board of Supervisors of Solano County may, by resolution,
5 instruct the county elections official to establish vote centers in
6 lieu of polling places in each precinct.

7 (b) If vote centers are used in an election, each vote center
8 shall have a secure electronic connection to the county's voter
9 registration system to provide voting information to, and receive
10 voting information from, the computerized registration list
11 maintained by the county elections official. The county may not
12 use vote centers in an election unless the Secretary of State has
13 certified that the secure electronic connection is sufficient to
14 prevent any elector from voting more than once and to prevent
15 unauthorized access to the computerized registration list.

16 (c) Vote centers in the county shall be established at the ratio
17 of one vote center for each 5,000 registered voters.

18 (d) The number, location, and manner of operation of the vote
19 centers, including providing for poll watching activities, shall be
20 determined by the county elections official in consultation with
21 the chairpersons of the county central committees of the major
22 political parties and a representative of the county organization
23 of any minor political party.

24 (e) Each vote center shall meet all the requirements of federal
25 and state law applicable to polling places, including accessibility
26 requirements for persons with disabilities.

27 (f) As used in this section, "vote center" means a polling place
28 at which any registered voter in the county holding the election
29 may vote, regardless of the precinct in which the voter resides.

30 (g) This section shall apply only to the County of Solano. The
31 county, not later than January 1, 2008, shall provide a report to
32 the Legislature describing the procedures and addressing issues,
33 including, but not limited to, security, cost, and voter turnout.

34 (h) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1,
35 2008, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted

1 *statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2008, deletes or extends*
2 *that date.*

3 *SEC. 2. Due to the unique circumstances concerning voting*
4 *in Solano County, it is necessary that, and the Legislature finds*
5 *and declares that, a general statute cannot be made applicable*
6 *within the meaning of Section 16 of Article IV of the California*
7 *Constitution.*

8 ~~SECTION 1. The Legislature declares its intent to enact~~
9 ~~legislation that would provide new fiscal and tax incentives with~~
10 ~~regard to counties that preserve open space and agricultural land.~~
11 ~~The Legislature further declares that such incentives have the~~
12 ~~additional demonstrated effect of directing growth to existing~~
13 ~~urban areas, thereby reducing the need to provide additional~~
14 ~~infrastructure and services in the unincorporated areas of the~~
15 ~~state.~~